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	22/	PATENT APPLICATION		First Named Inventor or Application Identifier	
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1.	X	Fee Transmittal Form Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)		6. D Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)	
2.	X	Specification [Total Pages (preferred arrangement set forth below)	15]	7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)	ٔ ا
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		-Reference to Microfiche Appendix -Background of the Invention		c. Statement verifying identity of above copies of	3
		-Brief Summary of the Invention		ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS	
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THE RESERVE		-Detailed Description of the Invention (including drawings, if filed -Claim(s))	8. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))	
		-Abstract of the Disclosure		9. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)	
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ues i		[Note Box 5 below]		14. Small Entity Statement filed in prior application,	
23		i. DELETION OF INVENTORS(S)		Statement(s) Status still proper and desired	
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17		is a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply Continuation □ Divisional ☑ Continuation-in-part (CIP)		uisite information: ior application No: PCT/EP98/04930 filed 23 July 1998.	
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CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation-in-part of PCT Application

No. PCT/EP98/04930, filed July 23, 1998, the content of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference thereto.

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to cream-based food

compositions and processes for preparing the same. More
particularly, the invention relates to the use of these cream
compositions and processes in the manufacture of particular
food compositions.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In numerous applications, such as those required by the food processing industry, a simple and rapid process for the production of a cream with a creamy texture and fresh taste is desirable. The preparation of certain cream-based food compositions is generally known for this purpose.

European Patent Application 0714608 describes a process for the manufacture of appetizers from a mixture containing in particular soft white cheese. This soft white cheese is pasteurized and cooled to 10°C before being extruded and then frozen, so that it can then be cut into portions which are subsequently coated with a fat-based topping.

Furthermore, European Patent Application 0687420 describes a process for the manufacture of a biscuit coated and filled with a cream containing living lactic acid

30 bacteria, exhibiting a water activity $(A_{\rm w})$ of 0.75-0.86 and comprising a sufficient amount of fatty substance so that it is in the form of a water-in-oil emulsion.

European Patent Application 0818149 discloses an aerated food composition constituted by an oil-in-water

35 emulsion comprising 20% to 45% fats, milk proteins, possibly sugars, and 20% to 38% water, having an acid pH of from 3.5 to 6 and obtained by emulsifying a mixture of an aqueous phase

based on fresh cheese, yogurt or sour cream and a fat phase comprising butter or vegetable fat, followed by pasteurizing the emulsion and foaming.

Despite these prior art formulations, there remains

5 a need for creams that have a creamy texture and a fresh taste
for use in the manufacture of food compositions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a simple and rapid

10 process for producing a cream composition having a creamy
texture and a fresh taste, and to a process for producing this
cream.

The process according to the present invention, comprises preparing a mixture that typically contains from 15 about 10% to 20% of milk derivatives, from about 8% to 30% of sugars, and from about 10% to 60% of fermented dairy product. The mixture may contain up to about 25% of sour cream or of dairy cream containing from about 25% to 45% of fatty substance, up to about 35% of a texturizing agent, up to about 20 20% of an aromatic product and up to about 0.5% of salt. The mixture is prepared by stirring together the ingredients. This mixture is then heat treated at a temperature of about 60°C to 115°C for about 7 seconds to 5 minutes. Next. the temperature of the mixture is adjusted to about 15°C to 40°C, 25 and about 10% to 45% of a molten fatty substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is added to the mixture with stirring, so as to obtain a homogeneous cream which exhibits an A of about 0.80 to 0.91.

In one embodiment, the milk derivative includes at
least one of powdered unskimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk,
sweetened evaporated milk, or combinations thereof. In
another embodiment, the fermented dairy product includes at
least one of fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese, powdered
fermented milk diluted in milk or water, powdered yogurt
diluted in water or milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated
cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or

cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or milk, or combinations thereof. The sour cream or dairy cream is preferably present in an amount from about 0.01% to 25% of

the mixture to increase the organoleptic or smoothness qualities of the mixture.

When used, the texturizing agent is present in an amount from about 0.01% to 35% and includes at least one of 5 maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof. Similarly, the aromatic product is present in an amount from about 0.01% to 20% and includes at least one of honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel, hazel-nuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit chunks, whole fruits, fruit syrups, concentrated fruit 10 juices, or combinations thereof. Also, the salt is preferably present in an amount from about 0.01% to 0.5%.

In another embodiment, the invention includes adjusting the pH of the mixture to about 4 to 6 before the mixture is heat treated. If desired, a plurality of living 15 lactic acid bacteria can be added to the mixture at a concentration of about 10⁸ to 10¹¹ per gram of the mixture after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to about 15°C to 40°C. Aeration of the homogenous cream is possible.

The invention also relates to a cream-based food
composition that includes the previously described mixtures.
This composition may be disposed on at least one layer of a biscuit. In a preferred embodiment, the composition is disposed between each layer of a biscuit having two layers.
In another embodiment, the food composition preferably has a
water activity (A_v) of about 0.75 to 0.88.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It has now been discovered that the process according to the present invention makes it possible to

30 produce a cream that retains a creamy texture and a fresh taste even after 45 days at refrigerator temperature. The cream according to the present invention has the advantage of being edible directly after storage at refrigerator temperature or several hours after having been exposed to room temperature.

In this description, the expression "milk derivative" will be employed to denote powdered skimmed milk, powdered unskimmed milk or sweetened evaporated milk, while

the term "biscuit" will be employed to denote any dough-based preparation, such as sponge cake, pound cake, gingerbread, brioche rolls, or Viennese bread and buns.

In order to make use of the present process, a 5 specific mixture is prepared. This mixture typically contains about 10% to 20%, and preferably from about 15% to 19%, of a milk derivative; from about 8% to 30%, preferably from about 12% to 22%, of a sugar; and from about 5% to 60%, and preferably from about 10% to 35%, of a fermented dairy 10 product. A number of optional ingredients may be included, if desired. For example, from about 0% to about 25%, and preferably from about 5% to 15%, of sour cream or of a dairy cream containing from about 25% to about 45% of a fatty substance of the sour cream or dairy cream; from about 0% to 15 about 35%, and preferably from about 10% to 25%, of a texturizing agent: from about 0% to about 20%, and preferably from about 5% to 15%, of an aromatic product; and from about 0% to about 0.5%, preferably from about 0.1% to 0.4%, of salt may be used. The mixture is thus prepared by stirring the 20 ingredients in any suitable mixing device, such as a turbomixer. The mixture according to the present invention can also be formulated to contain a supplement of inorganic salts, functional nutritional compounds and/or vitamins in conventional amounts.

25 It is possible to use any suitable form of sugar, such as sucrose, invert sugar syrup, glucose syrup, honey, or combinations thereof.

It is possible to use any suitable type of fermented dairy product, such as fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese,

30 powdered fermented milk diluted in milk or in water, powdered yogurt diluted in water or in milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or in milk, or combinations thereof.

It is possible to use sour cream or dairy cream

35 containing from about 25% to 45% of fatty substance, so as to
increase the organoleptic qualities of the mixture, in
particular its smoothness. When the sour cream or dairy cream

15

is included, it is preferably present in an amount of at least about 0.01%.

Maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof, can optionally be included as a 5 texturizing agent, so as to give body to the mixture While limiting its sweet flavor. When the texturizing agent is included, it is present in an amount from at least about 0.01%.

It is also possible to include an aromatic product, 10 such as honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel, hazelnuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit syrup, concentrated fruit juices, or combinations thereof. When the aromatic product is included, it is present in any taste perceptible amount and generally at least about 0.01%.

It is also possible to include a flavoring agent, such as cocoa, coffee, hazelnuts, vanilla, or fruit flavors, in solid, powdered, or liquid form, or combinations thereof. The flavoring agent can be added in any desired amount, but typically is included in an amount of at least about 0.1% by 20 weight of the mixture.

It is also optional, but preferred, to include lemon, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, apricots or peaches as whole fruits, fruit chunks, or combinations thereof. The whole fruits and fruit chunks can 25 be candied fruits, uncandied fruits, semi-candied fruits, or freeze-dried fruits, and can be added in an amount of between 2 and 25% by weight of the mixture.

Before the heat treatment, the pH of the mixture is preferably adjusted to about 4 to 6, depending on the acidity 30 of the aromatic product contained in the mixture. In the case where the aromatic product is acidic, the pH of the mixture is very precisely adjusted, so as not to destroy the smooth structure of the mixture. When too high, the pH can be adjusted by adding from about 0.1% to 2% of an organic acid, 35 such as lactic or citric acid, to the mixture. One of ordinary skill in the art will be readily be able to determine other suitable acidic or basic agents that are edible and suitable for adjusting the pH.

The mixture is then heat treated at about 60°C to 115°C for approximately 7 seconds to 5 minutes, so as to pasteurize it. If it is desired to set the mixture aside before adding the fatty substance thereto, it is possible, if appropriate, to cool it, so as to store it at about 8°C to 20°C and to maintain it thus under good hygienic conditions. The temperature of the mixture is then subsequently adjusted to about 15°C to 40°C. It is possible to incorporate, in the mixture, from about 0.02% to 0.5% of crystalline lactose per 10 00 g of mixture, after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to the temperature range of about 15°C to 40°C.

Living lactic acid bacteria can then optionally be added to the mixture at a concentration of about 10⁸ to 10¹¹, per gram of mixture, after having adjusted the temperature of 15 the mixture to the temperature range of about 15°C to 40°C. The living lactic acid bacteria can be added in dried form, in the form of a fresh or frozen concentrated culture, or in the form of a fermented dairy product. By adding this concentration of live bacteria during preparation, the desired 20 final levels can be achieved. The final concentration would be between about 10⁴ to 10⁹ per gram.

From about 10% to 45% of a molten fatty substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is then added to the mixture with stirring, so as to obtain a homogeneous cream that exhibits an A_w from about 0.80 to 0.91. In one embodiment, the A_w is from about 0.86 to 0.91, and in another embodiment, the A_w is from about 0.87 to 0.91. The fatty substance can be vegetable fat, the melting point of which is greater than about 30°C, or a mixture of such vegetable fats and of animal fat. In particular, butter is the most preferred fatty substance.

It is then possible to aerate the cream, so as to make it lighter. It is possible in particular to aerate it by incorporating therein, by continuous injection, in particular 35 from about 25 ml to 150 ml of an inert gas, such as nitrogen or other gases, typically air or carbon dioxide, per 100 g of cream. If desired, it is also possible to utilize the cream without aeration.

Another subject of the present invention is a food composition comprising a cream obtained by the process, which cream is then cooled and deposited on at least one layer of biscuit, preferably between two layers of biscuit.

Moreover, this food composition can be stored for at least 45 days at typical refrigerator temperatures, that is to say at about 4°C to 8°C. The food composition according to the present invention can be consumed immediately after storage at refrigerator temperature or a few hours, in 10 particular about 3 h to 12 h after having been removed from a refrigeration area and having been left at room temperature.

The food composition can be coated entirely or partially with chocolate, a chocolate substitute, or an icing of the fondant type.

Moreover, the food composition according to the present invention can contain, in the cream or in the biscuit, lactic acid bacteria at a final concentration of about 104 to about 109 per gram of the food composition.

20 EXAMPLES

The preparation process and the food composition according to the present invention are described in more detail in the examples below where the percentages are given by weight, except when otherwise indicated.

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Example 1

A food composition with a strawberry aroma is prepared.

To do this, a mixture containing 17% of powdered 30 skimmed milk, 14% of sucrose, 2.3% of glucose syrup, 20% of cream cheese, 11% of yogurt, 5% of dairy cream containing 35% of fatty substance, 20% of maltodextrin, 10% of strawberry pulp and 0.7% of powdered strawberry essence is prepared with stirring in a turbomixer.

35 The pH of the mixture is adjusted to 4.4 by adding 1.5% of lactic acid thereto.

The viscosity of the mixture is measured using a Brookfield viscometer sold by the Company Brookfield

Engineering Laboratories Inc., Stoughton, USA. The mixture exhibits a viscosity of 7600 cPs (7,600 mPa.s) at 29°C.

The mixture is then heat treated at 80°C for 3 minutes.

5 The mixture is then adjusted to 32°C before incorporating 0.04% of crystalline lactose per 100 g of mixture.

To obtain a homogeneous cream, 20% of molten fatty substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture is added.

A homogeneous cream is thus obtained which exhibits an A_{κ} of 0.91 and a pH value of 4.3.

 $\hbox{ Before depositing this homogeneous cream between two layers of a biscuit, it is cooled and then aerated by } \\$

15 incorporating therein 70 ml of nitrogen per 100 g of cream.

Using a depositing nozzle, 20 g of this cream are then deposited between two layers of biscuit, each layer weighing 6 g.

A food composition is thus obtained with a 20 strawberry aroma that has a creamy texture and that exhibits a fresh taste.

This composition is wrapped, e.g., in a hermetically closed plastic sachet, and is then stored at refrigerator temperature. It can be readily stored at refrigerator temperatures for 8 weeks.

Example 2

A food composition with a cocoa aroma is prepared.

To do this, a mixture containing 15% of powdered

30 skimmed milk, 18% of sucrose, 4% of invert sugar syrup, 19% of cream cheese, 14% of yogurt, 6% of dairy cream containing 35% of fatty substance, 19% of maltodextrin, and 5% of powdered cocoa is prepared with stirring in a turbo mixer.

The viscosity of the mixture is measured using a 35 Brookfield viscometer sold by Brookfield Engineering Laboratories Inc., Stoughton, USA. The mixture exhibits a viscosity of 12,000 cPs (12,000 mPa.s) at 33°C with an RV5 unit at a rotational speed of 10 rpm.

The mixture is then heat treated at 80°C for 3 minutes.

The mixture is then adjusted to 32°C before incorporating 0.04% of crystalline lactose per 100 g of 5 mixture.

To obtain a homogeneous cream, 25% of molten fatty substance with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is then added with stirring.

A homogeneous cream is thus obtained which exhibits ${\bf 10}$ an ${\bf A}_{\rm w}$ of 0.89 and a pH value of 5.8.

Before depositing this homogeneous cream between two layers of biscuit, it is cooled and then aerated by incorporating therein 60 ml of nitrogen per 100 g of cream.

Using a depositing nozzle, 14 g of this cream are then deposited between two layers of biscuit, each weighing 7 g.

A food composition is thus obtained with a cocoa aroma that has a creamy texture and which exhibits a fresh taste.

20 This composition is wrapped in a hermetically closed plastic sachet and is then stored at refrigerator temperature.

Example 3

 $\mbox{\bf A}$ food composition with a blueberry aroma is $\mbox{\bf 25}$ prepared.

To do this, a concentrated yogurt with 76% milk, 24% skimmed milk powder, and yogurt ferments is prepared. In this concentrated yogurt, living lactic acid bacteria are present at a concentration of $5x10^8$ per gram of the concentrated

30 yogurt.

A mixture containing 19% of milk, 14% of skimmed milk powder, 17.3% of sugar, 14% of inverted sugar, 20% of maltodextrin, 13% of blueberry pulp, 0.83% of powdered blueberry essence, 1.7% of lactic acid, 0.17% of salt is prepared with stirring in a turbomixer.

The mixture is then pasteurized before adding 0.03% of microcrystalline lactose.

Then 33% of the concentrated yogurt, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is added with stirring to the mixture.

To obtain a homogeneous cream 33% of molten fatty

5 substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is
then added with stirring.

A homogeneous cream is thus obtained which exhibits an A_{ν} of 0.91, a pH of 4.5 and a specific gravity of about 650 g/l. This homogeneous cream contains living lactic acid

10 bacteria at a concentration of 10° per gram of the cream.

Before depositing this homogeneous cream between two layers of biscuit, it is cooled and then aerated by incorporating therein 60 ml of nitrogen per 100 g of cream.

Between two layers of biscuit, each weighing 10 g, 15 20 g of cream is deposited.

The food composition has an A_{ν} of 0.88 and contains living lactic acid bacteria at a concentration of $5x10^7$ per gram of the food composition. After being chilled for 45 days, the food composition still contains living lactic acid

20 bacteria at a concentration over of $10^6\ \mathrm{per}$ gram of the food composition.

The term "about" as used herein in connection with one or more numbers or numerical ranges, should be understood to refer to all such numbers, including all numbers in a 25 range.

All percentages herein are weight percentages unless otherwise specified.

The invention described and claimed herein is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments herein

30 disclosed, since these embodiments are intended as

illustrations of several aspects of the invention. Any equivalent embodiments are intended to be within the scope of this invention. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will

35 become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A process for the preparation of a cream
 composition comprising:

stirring together about 10% to 20% of milk derivative, about 8% to 30% of a sugar, and about 10% to 60% of a fermented dairy product; optionally with sour cream or a dairy cream in an amount up to about 25%, the sour or dairy

10 cream containing from about 25% to 45% of fatty substances; a texturizing agent in an amount up to about 35%; an aromatic product in an amount up to about 20%; and a salt in an amount up to about 0.5%; to form a mixture:

heat treating the mixture 60°C to 115°C for about 7 15 seconds to 5 minutes;

cooling the mixture to about 15°C to 40°C; and adding about 10% to 45% of a molten fatty substance with respect to the total weight of the mixture with stirring to obtain a homogeneous cream composition which exhibits a 20 water activity (A_o) of about 0.80 to 0.91.

- 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the milk derivative comprises at least one of powdered unskimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk, sweetened evaporated milk, or 25 combinations thereof.
- 3. The process of claim 1, wherein the fermented dairy product comprises at least one of fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese, powdered fermented milk diluted in milk or water, powdered yogurt diluted in water or milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or milk, or combinations thereof.
- 35 4. The process of claim 1, wherein the sour cream or dairy cream is present in an amount of at least about 0.01% to increase the organoleptic or smoothness qualities of the mixture.

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- 5. The process of claim 1, wherein the texturizing agent comprises at least one of maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof and is present in an amount of at least about 0.01% to moderate sweetness in the cream 5 composition.
- The process of claim 1, wherein the aromatic product is present in an amount at least about 0.01% and comprises at least one of honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel,
 hazel-nuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit syrups, concentrated fruit juices, or combinations thereof.
 - 7. The process of claim 1, wherein the salt is present in an amount from about 0.01% to 0.5%.
 - 8. The process of claim 1, which further comprises adjusting the pH of the mixture to about 4 to 6 before the mixture is heat treated.
- 9. The process of claim 1, which further comprises adding a plurality of living lactic acid bacteria to the mixture at a concentration of about 10° to 10¹¹ per gram of the mixture after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to about 15°C to 40°C.
 - 10. The process of claim 1, which further comprises aerating the homogeneous cream composition.
- \$11.\$ The cream composition prepared by the process $30\,$ of claim 1.
 - 12. The cream composition prepared by the process of claim 10.
- 35
 13. A cream composition comprising a mixture of:
 about 10 % to 20% of a milk derivative;
 about 8% to 30% of a sugar;
 about 5% to 60% of a fermented dairy product;

optionally up to about 25% of sour cream or a dairy cream, wherein the sour or dairy cream contains from about 25% to 45% of fatty substances;

optionally up to about 35% of a texturizing agent;

optionally up to about 20% of an aromatic product;
and

optionally up to about 0.5% of salt.

- 14. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the 10 milk derivative comprises at least one of powdered unskimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk, sweetened evaporated milk, or combinations thereof and is present in an amount of about 15% to 19%.
- 15. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the fermented dairy product comprises fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese, powdered fermented milk diluted in milk or water, powdered yogurt diluted in water or milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or milk, or combinations thereof and is present in an amount of about 10% to 35%.
- 16. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the sour cream or dairy cream is present in an amount of at least about 0.01% to increase the organoleptic or smoothness qualities of the mixture.
- 17. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the texturizing agent is present in an amount of at least about 30 0.01% and comprises at least one of maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof.
- 18. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the aromatic product is present in an amount of at least about 35 0.01% and comprises at least one of honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel, hazel-nuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit syrups, concentrated fruit juices, or combinations thereof.

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- 19. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the salt is present in an amount of at least about 0.01%.
- 20. The cream composition of claim 13, further 5 comprising living lactic acid bacteria present at a concentration of about 10^4 to 10^{11} per gram of the mixture.
- 21. The cream composition of claim 13, which comprises a water activity (A_{ν}) of about 0.75 to 0.88.
 - 22. The cream composition of claim 13 further comprising a molten fatty substance in an amount of about 10% to 45% by weight of the mixture.
- 15 23. The cream composition of claim 13 in aerated form.
 - 24. A food product comprising the cream composition of claim 13 disposed on at least one layer of a biscuit.
 - $$25\,{}^\circ$$ The food product of claim 24, wherein the cream composition is disposed between two biscuit layers.

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

ABSTRACT

- A process for the preparation of a cream, in which a 5 mixture containing about 10% to 20% of milk derivatives, about 8% to 30% of sugars, about 10% to 60% of fermented dairy product, about 0% to 25% of sour cream or of dairy cream containing about 25% to 45% of fatty substance, about 0% to 35% of texturizing agent, about 0% to 20% of aromatic product,
- and about 0% to 0.5% of salt is prepared by stirring, heat treating at a temperature of about 60°C to 115°C for about 7 seconds to 5 minutes; the temperature of the mixture is then adjusted to about 15°C to 40°C and to which molten fatty substance is added with stirring, so as to obtain a
- 15 homogeneous cream. The cream thus obtained can be used in the manufacture of a food composition by depositing it on at least one layer, preferably between two layers, of food product, e.g., a biscuit.

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DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

1 believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et see, below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

and for which a patent application: © is attached hereto and includes amendment(s) filed on usas filed in the United States on as Application No,	_with amendment(s) filed on
	à.
was filed as PCT international Application No. PCT/EP98/04930 on 23 July 1998.	

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, \$1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION				
APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED	
97202631,4	European Patent Office	28 August 1997	YES & NO D	
			YES D NO D	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §11,1 lacknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentiability as defined in Title 37, Code of Tederal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application;

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APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT/EP98/04930	23 July 1998		x	

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint S. Leslie Misrock (Reg. No. 18872), Harry C. Jones, III (Reg. No. 20280), Berj A. Terzian (Reg. No. 20060), David Weild, III (Reg. No. 21094), Jonathan A. Marshall (Reg. No. 24614), Barry D. Rein (Reg. No. 22411), Stanton T. Lawrence, III (Reg. No. 25736), Charles E. McKonney (Reg. No. 22795), Philip T. Shannon (Reg. No. 24278), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24615), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 27614), Barry D. Rein (Reg. No. 27814), Brian D. Coggio (Reg. No. 27624), Rory J. Radding (Reg. No. 227469), Stophen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 27814), Brian D. Coggio (Reg. No. 27624), Rory J. Radding (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 19760), James N. Palik (Reg. No. 2588), Laura A. Coruzzi (Reg. No. 29164), Jennifer Gordon (Reg. No. 30753), Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30256), Geraldine F. Baldwin (Reg. No. 12321), Victor N. Balancia (Reg. No. 31231), Samuel B. Ahrans (Reg. No. 30605), Steven I. Weilach (Reg. No. 35402), Marcia H. Sundeen (Reg. No. 3098), Paul J. Zegge, No. 30741), Edmond E. Bannon (Reg. No. 31661), Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32291), Adriane M. Anther (Reg. No. 32605), Thomas G. Rowan (Reg. No. 34419), James G. Markey (Reg. No. 31666), Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32797), Scott D. Stimpson (Reg. No. 33693), Sect B. Familiant (Reg. No. 31666), Wiltiam S. Galliani (Reg. No. 35605), Francis D. Cerrito (Reg. No. 38100), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 33203), Brian H. Rothery (Reg. No. 35140), Brian D. Stiff (Reg. No. 3567), New York 10036, 1667 K. Street N. W., Washington, D. 20066 and 3300 Hillwiew Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304, and each of them, my attorneys, to prosecute this application, and to Tarasteria (Hrviston of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, 1667 K. Street N. W., Washington, D. 20066 and 3300 Hillwiew Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304, and each of them, my attorneys, to prosecute this application, and to Tarasteria of threadment of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, 1667 K. Street N. W., Washington

ADDRESS

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLE SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS up DOCKETING 1667 K. Street, N.W. (202) 496-4721 Washington, D.C. 20006 MIDDLE NAME FIRSTNAME LICTNAMP FULL NAME Johannes BAENSCH OF INVENTOR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY 2 Germany RESIDENCE & France ō Le Breuil-en-Auge CITIZENSHIP ZIP CODE STATE OR COUNTRY STREET 14130 France POST OFFICE Le Breuil-en-Auge Le Pré-aux-Meiux ADDRESS MIDDLE NAME FIRST NAME LASTNAME FULL NAME Marlène GAUGAZ OF INVENTOR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY 20 Switzerland RESIDENCE & Switzerland Corseaux CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY 70 CODE CITY CLARES 1802 Switzerland POST OFFICE Corseaux 36, rue du Village ADDRESS MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME **FULL NAME** Dominique LENEUF OF INVENTOR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY France Switzerland RESIDENCE & ō Vevev CITIZENSHIP ZIP CODE STATE OR COUNTRY Switzerland 1800 POST OFFICE Vevey 18, avenue de la Prairie ADDRESS MIDDLENAME FIRST NAME LASTNAME Hartmut FULL NAME REIMERDES OF INVENTOR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Germany RESIDENCE & Switzerland ō Cully/Villette CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY 77º CODE CITY 1096 Switzerland POST OFFICE Cully/Villette 161, route de Lausanne ADDRESS MIDDLE NAME FIRST NAME LASTNAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY CON RESIDENCE & ō CITIZENSHIP ZIP CODE STATE OR COUNTRY POST OFFICE ADDRESS MIDDLE NAME PIGST NAME LASTNAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY 2 RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE 6 STREET POST OFFICE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or may payor issuing thereon.

of the application of any hardy resemb meeting		
SIGNATURE OF JOURNNES BANSCH	SIGNATURE OF MARLENE GAUGAZ	Signature of pominique leneuf
1.		
DATE /	DATE	DATE
Feb. 17, 2000		
SIGNATURE OF ERNST HARTMUT REIMERDES	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
SIGNATURE OF ERMS! HARTING! REIMINGED		
	DATE	DATE
DATE		

(2)

and for which a patent application:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an priginal, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

was filed in the United States on	as Applice	tion No.	with amendment(s) file
was filed as PCT international Application	n No. PCT/EP98/04930 on 23 July	1998,	
hereby state that I have reviewed and un mendment referred to above.	derstand the contents of the above i	dentified application, includi	ing the claims, as amended by a
acknowledge the duty to disclose information	on known to me to be material to paten	tability as defined in Title 37,	Code of Federal Regulations, §1.
hereby claim foreign priority benefits under sted below and have also identified below an n which priority is claimed:	ny foreign application for patent or inv	entor's certificate having a fili	ng date before that of the applicat
EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLR	CATION(S), IF ANY, FILED PRIOR		
APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED
97202631.4	European Patent Office	28 August 1997	YES NO 🗆
			YES - NO -
hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, Un	nited States Code, §119(e) of any Un	ited States provisional applica	ation(s) listed below.
APPLICATION NUM	MBER	FILING I	DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, \$120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject metter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, Lacknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filling date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filling date of this application:

			STATUS	
APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT/EP98/04930	23 July 1998		х	

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint S. Leslie Misrock (Reg. No. 18872), Harry C. Jones, III (Reg. No. 20280), Berj A. Terzian (Reg. No. 20060), David Weild, III (Reg. No. 21094), Jonathan A. Marshall (Reg. No. 24614), Barry D. Rein (Reg. No. 22411), Stanton T. Lawrence, III (Reg. No. 25736), Charles E. McKenney (Reg. No. 22795), Philip T. Shannon (Reg. No. 24278), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24615), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 27457), Gidon D. Stern (Reg. No. 27469), David D. Lautter, I. Reg. No. 24278), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24615), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 27576), Gidon D. Stern (Reg. No. 27469), David D. I. Lautter, I. Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 28462), Brian D. Coggio (Reg. No. 27644), Rory J. Radding (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 30124), Lennifer Gordon (Reg. No. 30753), Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30256), Geraldino F. Baldwin (Reg. No. 31232), Victor N. Balancia (Reg. No. 31231), Semuel B. Abrams (Reg. No. 30605), Steven I. Wallach (Reg. No. 35402), Marcia H. Sundeen (Reg. No. 33293), Paul J. Zegger (Reg. No. 31231), Semuel B. Abrams (Reg. No. 32110), Bruce J. Barker (Reg. No. 3277), Scott D. Stimpson (Reg. No. 32605), Thomas G. Rowan (Reg. No. 34412), James G. Markey (Reg. No. 3585), Annt. Gisolif (Reg. No. 31966), Todd A. Wagner (Reg. No. 35399), Scott B. Stilliams (Reg. No. 35514), Kelly D. Talcott (Reg. No. 35823), Francis D. Cerrito (Reg. No. 34810), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rottery (Reg. No. 35514), Kelly D. Talcott (Reg. No. 35623), Annt. Gisolif (Reg. No. 34910), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rottery (Reg. No. 35514), Kelly D. Talcott (Reg. No. 35623), Annt. Gisolif (Reg. No. 34810), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rottery (Reg. No. 35514), Kelly D. Talcott (Reg. No. 35623), Annt. Gisolif (Reg. No. 34940), Andrea de Control Reg. No. 35003 to prosecute this application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP DOCKETING SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP 1667 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 496-4721 PIOCENIANE MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME BAENSCH Johannes OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & ٥ France Le Breuil-en-Auge Carmany CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY 2TB CODE POST OFFICE Le Pré-aux-Meiux Le Breuil-en-Auge France 14130 ADDRESS LASTNAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR GAUGAZ Marlène CITY STATE OF BORPION COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP 2 RESIDENCE & Corseaux Switzerland Switzerland CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODS POST OFFICE 36, rue du Village Corseaux Switzerland 1802 ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME LENEUR Dominique OF INVENTOR STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY 2 COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & ō Switzerland Restre Vevey CITIZENSHIP CITY STATE OF COUNTRY ZIE CODE POST OFFICE 1800 Switzerland 18, avenue de la Prairie Vevev ADDRESS FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LASTWAME FULL NAME REIMERDES Ernet Hortmut OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & Cully/Villette Switzerland Germany CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY ZID CODE POST OFFICE Cully/Villette Switzerland 1096 161, route de Lausanne ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OF COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE ADDRESS MIDDLENAME LASTNAME FIRST NAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 0 STATE OR POREION COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIE RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

STREET

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

SIGNATURE OF JOHANNES BAUNSCH	SIGNATURE OF MARLENE GAUGA2.	SIGNATURE OF DOMINIQUE LENEUF
DATE	15.2.2000	DATE
SIGNATURE OF ERNST HARTMUT REIMERDES	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 266
OATE	DATE	DATE

21F CODE

STATE OF COUNTRY

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

l believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

was filed as PCT international Application	nt(s) filed on as Applicate as Applic		with amendment	(s) file
hereby state that I have reviewed and un- mendment referred to above.	•		ng the claims, as amende	ed by a
acknowledge the duty to disclose information	on known to me to be material to pater	tability as defined in Title 37, (Code of Federal Regulation	ns, § 1.
hereby claim foreign priority benefits under isted below and have also identified below an n which priority is claimed:	ny foreign application for patent or inv	entor's certificate having a filin	ng date before that of the a	certific pplicat
	CATION(S), IF ANY, FILED PRIOR COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED	
APPLICATION NUMBER		1		
97202631,4	European Patont Office	28 August 1997	YES E NO	
	European Patont Office	28 August 1997	YES E NO	
			Y£8 □ NO	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, \$120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not displaced in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code \$11.2, lacknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to printed in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, \$1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

				STATUS	
APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED	
PCT/EP98/04930	23 July 1998		х.		

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint S. Leslie Misrock (Reg. No. 18872), Harry C. Jones, III (Reg. No. 20280), Berj A. Terzian (Reg. No. 20060), David Weild, III (Reg. No. 21994), Jonathan A. Murshall (Reg. No. 24614), Barry D. Rein (Reg. No. 22411), Stanton T. Lawrence, III (Reg. No. 25736), Charles E. McKenney (Reg. No. 22759), Philip T. Shannon (Reg. No. 24218), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24615), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 27457), Gidno D. Stern (Reg. No. 27459), Philip T. Shannon (Reg. No. 24278), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24613), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 27676), Gidno D. Stern (Reg. No. 27469), Abn J. Lauter, L. Peter, No. 29164), Brian D. Coggio (Reg. No. 27624), Rory J. Radding (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 30753), Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30625), Geraldine F. Baldwin (Reg. No. 31232), Victor N. Balancia (Reg. No. 31231), Samuel B. Abrams (Reg. No. 30635), Steven I. Wallach (Reg. No. 35402), Marcia H. Sundeen (Reg. No. 30893), Paul J. Zeger (Reg. No. 33821), Edmond R. Bennon (Reg. No. 31636), Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 30291), Adriane M. Artler (Reg. No. 32605), Thomas G. Rowan (Reg. No. 34419), James G. Markey (Reg. No. 35853), Ann L. Gilser (Reg. No. 31266), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rottery (Reg. No. 35514), Kelly D. Talcott (Reg. No. 35607), Gary S. Williams (Reg. No. 35514), Kelly D. Talcott (Reg. No. 35607), and Alan Tenenbaum (Reg. No. 34939), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rottery (Reg. No. 35540), Brian D. Stiff (Reg. No. 35607), and Alan Tenenbaum (Reg. No. 34939), all of Pennie & Edmonds LLP, whose addresses are 1155 Avenue of the Americas, New York 10036, 1667 K Street N. W., Washington, DC 20006 and 3300 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 9494, and each of them, my attorneys, to prosecute this epplication, and to transcate all busincess in the Patent and Tradement and Tradement and Tradement and Tradement a

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ADDRESS

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLE PENNIE & EDMONDS UP DOCKETING 1667 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 496-4721 LAST NAME RIBST NAME MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME BAENSCH Johannes OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR POREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Le Breuil-en-Auge France Germany CITIZENSHIP STATE OF COUNTRY 719 CODE POST OFFICE Le Pré-aux-Meiux Le Breuil-en-Auge France 14130 ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIPPLE NAME FULL NAME GAUGAZ Marlène OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OF POSITION COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Corseaux Switzerland Switzerland CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY EXAME OF COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 36, rue du Village Corseaux Switzerland 1802 ADDRESS FIRST NAME FULL NAME LENEUF Dominique OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FORRIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Vevey Switzerland France CITIZENSHIP STRRET Č STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 18, avenue de la Prairie Veyey Switzerland 1800 ADDRESS LASTNAMP PIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME REIMERDES Ernet Hartmut OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENESS RESIDENCE & ō Cully/Villette Switzerland Germany CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OF COUNTRY POST OFFICE 161, route de Lausanne Cully/Villette Switzerland 1096 ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 0 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSIES RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OR COUNTRY ZIT CODE POST OFFICE ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MODIENAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 2 CITY STATE OR POREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIE RESIDENCE & 0 CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIF CODE POST OFFICE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature of Marlane Gaugaz	SIGNATURE OF DOMINIQUE LENEUF
рате	11.02. E000
AIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204
DATE	DATE
	DATE BIONATURE OF INVENTOR 105

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

l believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et sec, below, of the subject maner which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

CARAM-DABED FOOD COM	MEDSTION WAY I ROCESS OF MAILUI	ACTORE
and for which a patent application: is attached hereto and includes amendment(s) filed on was filed in the United States on	as Application No.	with amendment(s) filed on
= was med in the Clinical States on	as replication 140,	With amendment(s) med on
was filed as PCT international Application No. PCT/EP96	8/04930 on 23 July 1998.	* .
I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the con	itents of the above identified application, in	cluding the claims, as amended by any

Lacknowledge the duty to disclose information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37. Code of Federal Regulations, 81.56.

Thereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION			
APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED
97202631.4	European Patent Office	28 August 1997	YES NO D
			YES D NO D

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of such of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, Jacknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentility as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

	ATION SERIAL NO. FILING DATE	STATUS		
APPLICATION SERIAL NO.		PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT/EP98/04930	23 July 1998		x	

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DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS (12) 1667 K Street, N.W. PENNIE & EDMONDS LL DOCKETING Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 496-4721 PIRSTNAME LAST NAME MIDDLENAME FULL NAME BAENSCH Johannes OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR POREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF OTTIVENEUR RESIDENCE & ő Le Breuil-en-Auge France Germany CITIZENSHIP CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE Le Pré-aux-Moinv Le Breuil-en-Auge 14130 France ADDRESS LAST NAME SIRST NAME MIDDLENAME FULL NAME GAUGAZ Mariène OF INVENTOR STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY 2 COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & ō Corseaux Switzerland Switzerland CITIZENSHIP ž STREET CTATE OR COLINTRY ZIR CODE POST OFFICE 36, rue du Village Corseaux Switzerland 1802 ADDRESS LAST NAME PIRST NAME MINDLENAME FULL NAME LENEUR Dominique OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR POREION COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CUTZENSHIP RESIDENCE & ā Switzerland Vevev France CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OR COUNTRY ZIF CODE POST OFFICE ' 18. avenue de la Prairie Vevey Switzerland 1800 ADDRESS LAST NAME MIDDLENAME FIRSTNAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR REIMERDES Ernst Hartmut 0 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & Cully/Villette Switzerland Cormany CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY 2IP CODE POST OFFICE 161, route de Lausanne Cully/Villette Switzerland 1096 ADDRESS LASTNAME FIRST NAME MIDIOLE NAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE ADDRESS LASTNAME PIRST NAME MODUENAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 CITIZENSHIP

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SIGNATURE OF JOHANNES BARNSCH	SIGNATURE OF MARLENE GAUGAZ	SIGNATURE OF DOMINIQUE LENEUR
DATE	DATE	DATE
SIGNATURE OF ERVST HARTMUT REIMERDES BUILD H. Dermi wall	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
14.02. 2000	DATE	DATE

STATE OR COUNTRY